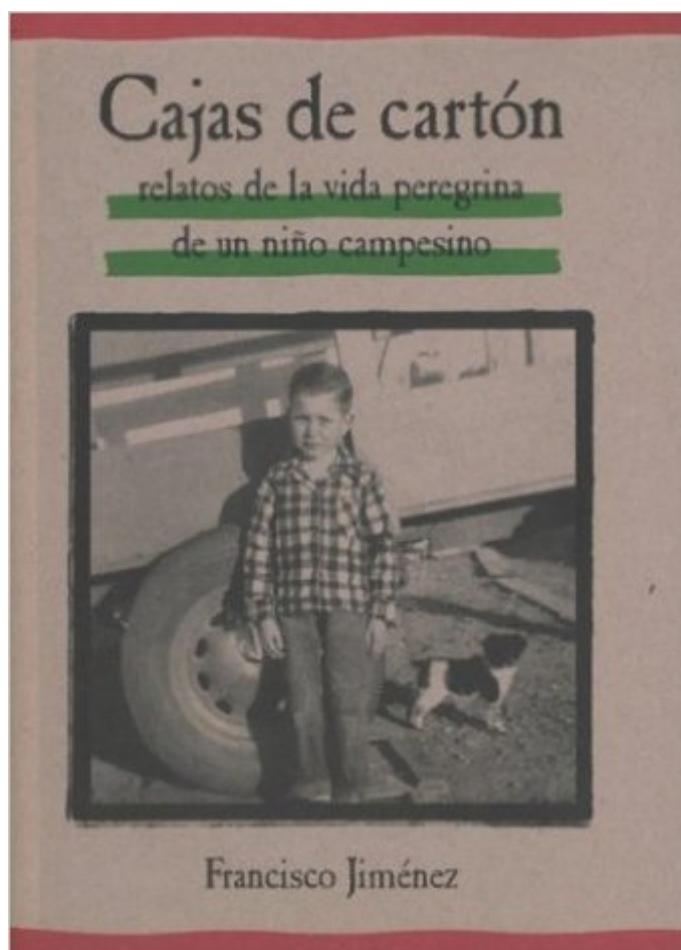


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# Cajas De Carton: Relatos De La Vida Peregrina De Un Nino Campesino (Spanish Edition)



## Synopsis

A powerful account of a family's journey to the fields of California -- to a life of constant moving, from strawberry fields to cotton fields, from tent cities to one-room shacks. Seen through the eyes of a boy who longs for an education and the right to call one place home, this is a story of survival, faith, and hope. It is a journey that will open readers' hearts and minds. Francisco Jiménez emigrated from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, to California, where he worked for many years in the fields with his family. He received both his master's degree and his Ph.D. from Columbia University and is now chairman of the Modern Languages and Literature Department at Santa Clara University, the setting of much of *Reaching Out*. He is the award-winning author of *The Circuit*, *Breaking Through*, *La Mariposa*, and *Reaching Out*. He lives in Santa Clara, California, with his family. El intenso relato del viaje de una familia a través de los campos de California viviendo una vida en constante movimiento, de campos de fresa a campos de algodón, y de campamentos a cobertizos de un ambiente. Narrada por un joven que anhela estudiar y obtener el derecho de elegir un hogar, esta es una historia de supervivencia, fe y esperanza. Un viaje que abrirá el corazón y la mente de los lectores. Francisco Jiménez emigró de Tlaquepaque, México, a California, donde por muchos años trabajó junto con su familia en los campos. Obtuvo una maestría y un doctorado en la Universidad de Columbia, siendo actualmente jefe del Departamento de Lenguajes Modernos y Literatura de la Universidad de Santa Clara, el escenario principal de *Más allá de mí*. Ha recibido premios por sus obras *Cajas de cartón*, *Senderos fronterizos*, *La mariposa* y *Más allá de mí*. Reside con su familia en Santa Clara, California

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Length: 1:20 Mins

As someone who minored in Spanish in college and who doesn't want to lose fluency completely, I read a couple Spanish novels every year. Most recently, I read the brief, entertaining, and insightful Cajas de Cartón. I would recommend it.

Este conjunto de cuentos, es un verdadero deleite para cualquier lector y especialmente para los inmigrantes latinoamericanos que llegan a los EEUU a esforzarse y donde tiene que adaptarse a una nueva realidad. Francisco Jimenez, expresa y nos revela la realidad de los trabajadores de la tierra desde la visión de su niñez, sin perder la inocencia y relatandonos la realidad. Muy estimulantes cuentos, ahora continuare con el siguiente libro de Francisco Jimenez, orgullo latino!!!

An excellent read for an intermediate-level (third-year?) Spanish student. Narration style is straightforward, vocabulary is basic, and story is easy to follow (yet compelling). Highly recommended by this little gabachino.

I read this in my adult Spanish class. It's the first in a series of 3, and you should read them in chronological order: 1) Cajas de cartón, 2) Senderos fronterizos, & 3) Más allá de mí. What struggles, disappointments and sacrifices this family makes! All 3 books are wonderful. This child is a miracle in the making.

My Spanish tutor recommended this book, and I bought to help my reading comprehension. It has helped tremendously. I would say that it is for the intermediate learner or maybe, slightly higher. I have read all but the last three chapters, and have enjoyed them immensely. It has also helped me learn a great deal more about verbs (number one thing for me), grammar, and sentence structure in Spanish. This would be a great book for anyone learning Spanish, or for Spanish speakers to read to their children. For those who are unfamiliar with the Bracero Program which took place in California in the 1940s, 1950s, and maybe, the 1960s, it will be quite the eye-opener. Los Braceros

picked all the fruits and vegetables that were commercially grown in California, and in my opinion, were treated despicably. These are the more-or-less autobiographical stories of the author who grew up in the era of this program, but the family never returned to Mexico. In two or three chapters, he mentions "undocumentos" so I believe that the family had green cards. The author and his older brother were born in Mexico, but the rest of his siblings were born in California. I love these stories even though at times they are very sad. For all Spanish language learners, this book and the others should be read.

This is an excellent book for Spanish-learners and lovers of good literature. The stories are well-written and moving, yet the grammar is straightforward and uses only well-known Mexican idioms. After only a few pages, I was deeply immersed in the stories of Panchito and his family. My concern for the characters inspired me to learn Spanish very quickly. While the book deserves five stars, the Kindle edition only earns four because of numerous formatting errors--errors which could have been found and remedied in less than an hour with a spell-checker. Hyphens from the previous print layout were never removed, while some words are inexplicably broken into two.

The English version titled "The Circuit" caught my eye a year ago and now, buying the original Spanish version for a class, I'm glad I waited to buy this one. The stories are filled with colloquial Spanish sayings and an eye-opening perspective on Mexican immigration. I would not recommend the read for a beginner, but for an advanced Spanish student or anyone interested in a child's perspective on the immigration crisis, this book is an absolute MUST.

**THE GOOD:** Good story, well told, very detailed and interesting narrative of the rough life of migrant workers from the 1950's and 1960's. It's good for students to be aware of how migrant work was during this period of history - and it opens up discussion about how it is now. "Harvest / La Cosecha" is a good documentary to show in conjunction with this book.  
**THE BAD:** A lot of my students, however, feel it's a little out of touch with their time. My biggest complaint is that a lot of the Spanish translation is pretty pathetic. The translators should have taken a more idea-for-idea approach with translation rather than word-for-word one. I could provide examples -- probably a lot -- in which the translation could have sounded a lot more natural... and I'm not even a native speaker. I'm considering replacing this with something else in my curriculum.

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